

**KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN  
BLUEGRASS REGIONAL MEETING  
St. Joseph Hospital- Keeneland Education Center  
Lexington, Kentucky  
May 13, 2004**

**BLUEGRASS REGION RESPONDS TO ECONOMIC STATUS OF KENTUCKY'S WOMEN**

On May 13, people in the Bluegrass Region who are interested in following up on the recommendations resulting from the Kentucky Commission on Women (KCW) study and summit on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women met at the Keeneland Education Center of St. Joseph's Hospital. **It was a big success!** The meeting, hosted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Bluegrass Central Branch (BGC), and co-sponsored by KCW, was attended by more than **50** women.

**Guest Speakers:**

Secretary Allyson Hughes Handley, Governor's Executive Cabinet

Ms. Glenda R. Woods, Executive Director, KCW

Ms. Ann H. Rutledge, Staff Assistant, KCW

Ms. Sarah Kahmann, Chairwoman, KCW

Five areas were identified by KCW as needing improvement. At the beginning of the meeting, each area was described briefly by a topic leader. Jaleh Rezaie was topic leader for Education; Sandra Mayberry described some of the needs required for women to achieve Equity; Jackie Bondurant explained Leadership needs; Linda Jouridine explained concerns about Health and Well-Being; and Nancy Dicken described some areas to be addressed in order for women to achieve Economic Sufficiency. Sara Porter, President of AAUW BGC, explained that at the end of the KCW Economic Summit in June 2003, which was attended by people from across Kentucky, participants were challenged to return to their communities and begin making improvements that will improve the lives of Kentucky's women.

Sara stated that the Bluegrass Regional meeting was a follow up to the summit, and that AAUW BGC wants to:

- Form five topic groups. The groups are committed to working to implement recommendations that came from the KCW study and the Economic Summit. (This report is a summary of the meeting.)
- Work with the committees to identify existing resources that can work together to implement recommendations that came from the KCW study and the Economic Summit.
- Work with the committees to record new programs or improvements that have resulted because of the Economic Summit as reported by the five committees.
- Work with the committees to prepare information that will be shared with other Kentuckians at the KCW Economic Summit in 2005 regarding the work done in the Bluegrass Region.

Participants then broke into five groups and worked to establish five committees that will each work independently to improve the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women. The Committees

are charged with identifying two to five things that can be done by next spring. A summary of each group's structure and their tentative goals for the next year are outlined below. ***Anyone (male or female) interested in joining one of the groups is encouraged to contact the Committee Chair. All five groups welcome additional participants!***

AAUW BGC will schedule meetings of the Committee Chairs, compile records of programs and activities in the Bluegrass Region, and assist with reports from the Bluegrass Region at the KCW 2005 Economic Summit.

### *The Five Committees*

#### **EDUCATION**

Members will compile a list of ways to improve educational opportunities for Kentucky women and girls by sending their ideas to the Chair. At their next meeting, they will prioritize the list and identify several on which they will concentrate. They will list programs and resources that already exist, and identify any with which the Committee might collaborate. The group is especially interested in programs for girls that stimulate interest in math, science, technology and engineering.

Chair: Jaleh Rezaie, [Jaleh.rezaie@eku.edu](mailto:Jaleh.rezaie@eku.edu) or (859)622-2398 (Out of the country until June 30.)

Next Meeting: July 13 – 7 PM – Lexington (main) Library, Conference Room 3, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

#### **EQUITY**

The Committee hopes to recruit graduate students to conduct studies of the extent of institutional discrimination with the goal of eliminating it; promote legislation or executive order requiring reports and studies that identify race, gender, ethnicity and salary discrepancies/equality for publicly funded agencies; promote English as a Second Language programs; encourage minority recruitment; educate the public (especially women) regarding laws and their options if they experience discrimination.

Chair: Julia Hawkins - [jhawk1@uky.edu](mailto:jhawk1@uky.edu) or (859) 257-9876

Next Meeting: June 12 – 9 AM – Breakfast at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. (Buffet is \$9.95.)

#### **LEADERSHIP**

The Committee will focus on two things to begin with: coordinating with AAUW, League of Women Voters, Young Republicans, Young Democrats and Senior Citizen Centers to encourage women (especially low-income women) to vote; and coordinating with UK's Women Leading Kentucky efforts to develop a mentoring resources website. Other projects under consideration are ways to teach children to seek out information; the necessity to develop women's communication skills; the few numbers of women in the state legislature; education of school boards regarding Title IX (and what it costs to defend a claim when it is disregarded); and education of women in social services and health fields in leadership skills.

Chair: Jackie Bondurant - [jackie.bondurant@kctcs.edu](mailto:jackie.bondurant@kctcs.edu) or (859)246-3219

Meeting times to be determined, with plans to meet next in Berea.

#### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Committee members are to review the recommendations that came from the KCW study and Summit prior to the next meeting and be prepared to recommend action in priority order. Also,

each member is encouraged to consider Co-chairing the Committee (to spread the workload). The Committee would like additional members. Anyone interested should contact Jane Sampson for a copy of the study/Summit recommendations.

*Tentative Chair: Jane Sampson, [cajay54@hotmail.com](mailto:cajay54@hotmail.com) or (502)564-8300, ext. 302*

*Next Meeting: June 15 – 6:30-8:30 PM – Beaumont Center Library*

### **ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY**

The Committee plans to research the following: resources available and ways to communicate information regarding step-by-step designs and information centers for women who want to start a business; information about existing transportation systems; and groups that distribute business, childcare and transportation information in each of the Bluegrass counties. At the next meeting the Committee will establish goals as to what they plan to accomplish by the 2005 Summit and known resources for reaching the goals,

*Chair: Nancy Dicken [TMDicken@aol.com](mailto:TMDicken@aol.com) or (859)879-0955*

*Next Meeting: June 15 – 6-8 PM – Lexington (main) Library, Conference Room B (4<sup>th</sup> floor)*

For more information, contact Nancy Dicken, [TMDicken@aol.com](mailto:TMDicken@aol.com) or (859)879-0955; or Sara Porter, [saraky@harefoot.com](mailto:saraky@harefoot.com) (859)846-9062.